

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



545215

I. HEADING

Date: January 12, 1996
 Subject: ~~Carl's Retreading Tire Fire~~, Traverse City, Grand
 Traverse County, Michigan
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POLREP No.: ~~POLREP 6~~ (Emergency Response)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	ZZ
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS No.:	-
NPL Status:	No
Start Date:	December 30, 1995
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category Tire Fire at Scrap Tire FacilityB. Site Description and Location

1. Site location

The Carl's Retreading Tire Fire (KR) site is an emergency response to a tire fire located south of Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan (44° 39.7'N, 85°40.0'W). The KR site is an

approximately 4.5 acre property that consists of a building with loading dock, several semi-trailers, and 500,000 shredded and whole tires staged on 1 acre of the parcel. The tires are in piles that range from 4 feet up to 30 feet in height. The site is currently owned by Steve Hubert.

The site is bordered by residences located on Compton Court to the west, Sawyer Woods Drive to the north, forested land to the south, and light industry and residences to the east. The site is in a rural/residential/ area with some light industry. An elementary school (Blair Elementary) is located across Sawyer Road and approximately 500 feet to the east of the KR site. Residences are located approximately 300 feet to the west of the fire as well as within 500 feet to the south and east of the site. Cox Pond and Beitner Creek are located approximately 1/3 mile north of the site.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

Fire fighting activities at the Carl's Retreading Tire Fire have been ongoing since December 29, 1995. Agencies involved in fire activities and technical support include Grand Traverse Rural and Metro Fire Departments, U.S. EPA, the U.S. EPA's Technical Assistance Team (TAT), U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Grand Traverse Health Department, Blair Township officials, Grand Traverse County Emergency Management, and numerous volunteers from fire departments all over the state. Helicopter overflights of the fire were provided by U.S.C.G. Air Station Traverse City.

The fire is being fought through mechanical means with fire fighters providing safety support. A set pattern of air monitoring stations have been established and are assessed twice daily. In addition, random readings are collected downwind of the fire each day to assess the amount and content of smoke leaving the site. Continuous air monitoring occurs daily and is moved to intercept the smoke plume. Throughout the fire activities, readings have indicated levels of particulates below NIOSH standards for carbon black, rather

than hazardous levels. No elevated readings of organic vapors, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, or other components have been detected.

On January 8, high winds held the smoke plume low to the ground and moved it to the northeast; Farrington Development was directly in line of the smoke. Particulate levels within the building remained at background (0.10 mg/m³) levels, while elevated levels were noted outside. Farrington was advised of this and elected not to evacuate the area.

A crash rescue unit (OSH KOSH) was provided by Cherry County Airport to test its suitability for use at the fire. When it proved useful, two OSH KOSH units were borrowed from Phelps-Collins Air National Guard Station. The units will be available for use through January 14. Efforts are under way to retain this type of equipment for a longer period of time. PRP's 590 trackhoe being evaluated for use on fire fighting operations. Fabrication may need to be done to the trackhoe to extend its reach.

2. Removal activities to date

January 10, 1996: Fire fighting activities using mechanical means continued with safety support being provided by the OSH KOSH units. A bomb threat was received during the night and work was delayed while the heavy equipment and site areas were cleared by bomb-sniffing dogs.

Arrangements were made to collect an ash fallout sample, a Summa canister sample for VOCs from smoke immediately near the fire, and metals cartridges for laboratory analysis.

PRPs may not be able to fund the fire operation beyond Friday, January 12, 1996. They may potentially be able to fund through January 14, if they are extended credit by Northern A-1.

January 11, 1996: Fire fighting activities using mechanical means continued with safety support being provided by the OSH KOSH units. The 590 excavator was utilized in the lower heat areas which allowed duel operations to be run.

Gillian pump samples for carbon black, soot samples to be analyzed for metals and PAHs, and a Summa canister of fire smoke were collected and shipped for laboratory analysis.

School board for Blair Elementary has decided to keep children in alternative locations until January 22, 1996. This will allow the command post to remain in Blair school another week and will protect the children from potential exposure to the smoke.

B. Planned Removal Activities

1. Continue monitoring of random and stationary air sampling points for particulates, organic vapors, and other potentially fire generated constituents.
2. Northern A-1 will continue to fight the tire fire with the safety support of the fire fighters.
3. Continue to evaluate ongoing potential threat to the surrounding residents and employees of businesses.
4. Conduct media briefings.
5. Continue to work at arranging for the crash rescue units to remain on site assisting in fire operations beyond January 14, 1996.

C. Next Steps

Continue to operate tire fire fighting activities with safety support of local and visiting fire fighters.

Prepare analytical results for presentation at public meeting scheduled for January 18, 1996, at 1900 hours.

D. Key Issues

Students from the Blair Elementary School continue to be displaced from their building. Students are currently expected to be able to return to the Blair building on January 22, 1996.

Grand Traverse County has assumed financial responsibility for paying the fire fighters. Levels of volunteers must be monitored and maintained to allow operations to continue.

Township continues to stand ready to house any residents who voluntarily choose to vacant their homes during daylight operations. No one has evacuated their homes since January 1, 1996.

V. COST INFORMATION

Estimated costs as of January 11, 1996:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
TAT	\$ 50,000	\$ 39,988	\$ 10,012 \$ 14,544
U.S. EPA	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,938	\$ 3,062 \$ 6,314
USCG AST	\$ 30,000	\$ 14,211	\$ 17,673
TOTAL:	\$ 100,000	\$ 71,137	\$ 28,863